



Day

EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS 2015

1 Daily Bulletin

Redefining Coastal and Ocean Governance in the East Asian Seas Region

The first day of the EAS Congress International Conference began with an Opening Plenary, chaired by Dr. Antonio La Viña.

Plenary keynote speaker, Mr. Chu Pham Ngoc Hien, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Viet Nam highlighted the importance of integrated approaches to enable a regional mechanism for coordination and cooperation between all levels of government and stakeholders in implementing effective coastal governance. "There should be an appropriate mechanism for connecting the responsibilities of countries", he said. The Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) has been playing an important role as a bridge between international, national and local policies on environment and sustainable development.

Ms. Yoon Jin Sook, former Minister of Oceans and Fishers in RO Korea, elaborated on the dynamic conservation initiatives in the region, along with policies promoting coastal management and marine development and the implementation of national and local plans. She also discussed the next priority areas of RO Korea: integrating fisheries and marine management, mainstreaming marine

ecosystem management in policies and maintaining partnerships at the regional and local level.

Dr. Gunnar Kullenberg, former Director General of IOC/ UNESCO, stressed that rapid changes in ocean processes are the most serious global threat, including ocean acidification, changes in the nutrient balance, marine pollution and sea level changes. Data systems are indispensable in noting significant changes in the ocean processes. Advances in scientific research and synergy with the academe and economic development planners can help address these pressing challenges.

Mr. Christian Severin, Senior Environment Specialist of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat, remarked that PEMSEA is a beacon in coastal governance as partnership in the region has consistently delivered tangible achievements. Through PEMSEA's work, local ideas have been effectively harnessed and promoted at a regional level. Mr. Severin highlighted that one uniqueness of this partnership is its engagement with the private sector. He stressed that GEF looks not to fund projects, per se, but processes. He emphasized the need to sustain the momentum and explore new focus areas moving into the future.



Managing Risks in Climate Change and Disasters in the Seas of East Asia

Discussions on the first day of this two-day workshop were predicated on the principle that climate change and disaster risks are more than just external shocks – they are symptomatic of a continuing accumulation of risks resulting from policies and economic and development activities. Mr. Abhilash Panda of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) emphasized in his keynote address that our collective day-to-day decisions and investments have resulted in the realization that climate change is no longer in the future – it is here now, and the need to act is imperative.

Actions for managing these risks and preventing the creation of new ones are clearly articulated in three international strategies: the Sendai Framework, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the discussions emerging from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Panelists expressed that the ultimate goal is to ensure that local governments are engaged and actions are being taken to make communities and cities more resilient. While the workshop acknowledged that significant actions have been implemented, large gaps and challenges remain, including limited understanding of risks in cities and countries, inadequate urban planning, the need for capacity building and enhanced access to funding.



The workshop served as a venue to introduce the ADAPT Strategy, a new addition to the updated SDS-SEA 2015, as the region's commitment and contribution to the international agenda. The ADAPT Strategy highlights scaling up of ICM as a system for following through with commitments to risk-informed planning, knowledge management and sustainable financing mechanisms. Participants also highlighted the important role of the youth, who will continue the efforts on sustainable development into the future. Another important message to emerge was that this is a universal problem and all countries and stakeholders are "in this together", so more partnerships and joint efforts are needed. In emphasizing this point, Dr. Stefan Groenewold expressed that "we know enough at this moment to start acting. It's a strategic mistake to exclude others" in these efforts.





Good Practices, Innovation and Impacts in ICM Applications in Japan

This session highlighted the evolution of ICM implementation in Japan from highly sectoral to holistic, integrated management. The concept of “satoumi”, which promotes people’s participation in managing coastal areas and is strongly linked to improving ecosystem services, plays a vital role in the implementation of ICM in Japan. Dr. Keita Furukawa shared that there has been a significant increase in Satoumi practices across Japan. In his keynote presentation, Dr. Furukawa stressed that managing a smaller area is more effective, that is “the smaller, the better”. As scale increases, coordination costs also increase. The enactment of the Basic Act on Ocean Policy represents a significant milestone in ICM implementation in Japan. The Decision of Basic Plan on Ocean Policy and its Revision, in particular, demonstrates the central government’s assistance to regions that will strive to formulate their own plans.

Japan shared its experiences in ICM implementation in Shima City, Obama City and Bizen City with support from the Ocean Policy Research Institute - Sasakawa Peace Foundation. Panelists shared that all sites are characterized by active interaction and participation of the local people, leadership by the local government in creating the necessary coordinating mechanism (e.g., Shima City Satoumi Creation Committee; Obama City Coastal Development Council), the development of strategies and plans (e.g., Satoumi Creation Basic Plan; Obama City Coastal Development Plan) and active involvement of the academia in providing the necessary technical and scientific advice to support policy and planning. The panel discussion highlighted the importance of following the ICM process, building capacity and confidence to implement ICM (e.g., learning by doing), prioritizing issues and identifying appropriate measures to address them and engaging all sectors, including the private sector, in harmonizing plans and programs.



Application of Knowledge Management in Scaling up Public and Private Sector Investments in Blue Economy

Dr. Sarah Farley, Chief Operating Officer of the Global Knowledge Initiative, opened the session with a keynote address and a compelling question: What has gone wrong in Knowledge Partnerships? She outlined three common pitfalls that have made Knowledge Partnerships less effective than they could be. These include the challenges in forming partnerships, maintaining partnerships and ensuring their effectiveness.

Dr. Farley stressed that Knowledge Partnerships are needed to solve complex problems, which relies on the involvement of a diverse set of stakeholders. She recommended a set of key principles to consider in designing next generation partnerships for the blue economy, including system dynamics, reimagining capacity building, managing purpose driven networks and capitalizing on feedback loops.

The workshop emphasized the need for Knowledge Management in the region. Experiences from panelists illustrated that local context, such as limitations of infrastructure, must be considered when establishing partnerships, and tools and systems must be adapted by incorporating cultural and traditional knowledge. One major challenge lies in integrating vast networks of knowledge and the multitude of knowledge platforms. Panelists stressed that knowledge “platforms” are not simply websites, but rather a mixture of people and technical components.

Mr. Renato Cardinal and Dr. Serafin Talisayon introduced participants to the SEA Knowledge Bank, a new knowledge platform developed by PEMSEA. In demonstrating its features, they shared that the platform will offer not only web-based features, but also knowledge products and services that will include a face to face component.

In the interactive breakout sessions, participants mapped challenges and opportunities, identified criteria for effective knowledge partnerships and clarified the roles that different organizations can play in knowledge management. Panelists emphasized that knowledge creates benefits and value only when it is used. In closing, Ms. Melanie King, Senior Advisor of the project Capturing Coral Reef and Related Ecosystem Services (CCRES) expressed that knowledge partnerships and platforms are ultimately about people and capacity building, which can contribute to the optimization and improved utilization of networks.



Scaling up ICM: Innovations and Impacts at Local, National and Regional Levels

“You have to think like a scientist, work like a manager and speak like a diplomat... and learn how to drink,” summarized Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, on his two decades of experience in ICM implementation. Dr. Chua’s keynote address set the stage for the day’s discussions. Among various lessons learned over the years, Dr. Chua touched on the pivotal role of local government in ICM implementation, the importance of multi-stakeholder coordination and participation, vision-oriented strategy and action plans and building local management capacity through “learning by doing”.

Co-convened by the Ocean Policy Research Institute - Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, Coastal Management Center and the PEMSEA Network of Local Governments for Sustainable Coastal Development, the workshop aimed to discuss ICM applications at the local, national and regional levels, and the contributions that ICM and related management systems have made to improving governance and management of coastal and ocean areas and related resources, as well as sustainable economic growth and social benefits.

Case studies presented during the session showed significant progress in implementation of ICM and related processes, and proved that ICM is effective in addressing various issues including biodiversity, fisheries, river basin, pollution, water, climate change and disaster management, contributing to the achievement of national and global targets. Among others, good practices and success factors that were discussed include: (a) Building of capacity of coastal management practitioners and decisionmakers; (b) Use of science to fully understand traditional knowledge to support decisionmaking; (c) Facilitating participatory process and promoting ownership at the local level; (d) Developing and providing socioeconomic incentives and equitable sharing of benefits to generate political buy-in and stakeholder support; (e) Application of social marketing approaches to change behaviours; (f) Balancing authority and consensus building processes; (g) Integration of riverbasin and coastal management involving stakeholders on both sides; and (h) Applying adaptive approach in relation to new data and information.

Integration among various sectors and levels of governments, however, remains a challenge. It is therefore critical that ICM development and implementation is anchored to a long-term vision and be implemented with sustained effort over a long term.

Matching the Societal Aspiration for a Blue Ocean through Public-Private Partnerships

This multisectoral stakeholder workshop explored the potential of public-private partnership as an approach to addressing coastal challenges under a framework for sustainable coastal development.

Through case studies from China, the Philippines and Vietnam, several requirements for successful PPP were identified including government leadership and political will at national and local levels; legal and regulatory framework and consistent enforcement; institutional arrangements and governance; transparent procurement processes; financing mechanisms to ensure project viability (e.g., user fees, viability gap funding, national government subsidies); contracts that include acceptable rate of return, cost-recovery mechanisms, risk management measures, and performance-based targets; and stakeholder awareness to increase willingness to pay.

Presenters shared that successful PPP can result in lower project costs, shorter repayment period, improved performance in public service provision and water quality (as demonstrated in Nanming, China) and more efficient operations (as demonstrated in Baliwag Water District, Philippines).

“Gaps exist in translating blue economy investment into bankable PPP projects in the absence of agreed methodologies and criteria in valuation of ecosystem services” said Ms. Nataliya Mylenko, Senior Financial Sector Specialist of the World Bank. Bridging these gaps necessitates PPP regulators and the environment and ocean sectors to clearly measure performance to ensure willingness to pay and trust between public and private sectors. Knowledge sharing of successful models, dialogue among governments, private sector, scientists and stakeholders, and capacity development are key factors for replication and scaling up of PPP projects.



Seminar on Recent Developments and Trends in Oil Spill Preparedness, Response and Compensation

PEMSEA organized a special seminar in cooperation with the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF), the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) Funds and Oil Spill Response Limited (OSR) to discuss recent developments in oil spill preparedness and response. The seminar updated participants on trends in oil spills from tankers, best practices in developing effective response strategies and contingency plans, developments in the compensation regime for oil spills and industry collaboration through IPIECA. Vietnam's experience on oil spill preparedness and response highlighted the importance of developing oil spill contingency plans at the provincial and local levels along with the need to develop local government capacities in oil spill preparedness and response.

Despite increasing transport of oil at sea, a study conducted by ITOPF found a decreasing trend in oil spills from tankers. However, small spills can still cause environmental damage and economic loss, according to Ms. Jessika Fuessel of ITOPF. The importance of regional and sub-regional agreements for oil spill response was emphasized by resource persons. It was highlighted that at-sea response operations for oil spill incidents involving two or more countries is complicated and challenging, particularly if these countries have different response policies and techniques. Ms. Shareena Shahnavas of OSR emphasized that involving stakeholders before, during and after spills is essential to an effective response operation.

Overall, the presentations and discussion provided valuable inputs to countries in attendance, particularly on recent efforts on reviewing and updating their national contingency plans and developing a strategic action plan for the Gulf of Thailand.



9th Annual National Contact Points Meeting of the Implementation of the Framework Programme for Joint Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand

Twenty key officials representing the Merchant Marine Department and Ministry of Environment of Cambodia, Marine Department of Thailand, Thailand Oil Industry Environmental Safety Group (IESG), Vietnam National Search and Rescue Committee (VINASARCOM), Vietnam Administration for Seas and Islands (VASI) and Vietnam National Southern Oil Spill Response Center met for an important side event held during the EAS Congress 2015 at the Furama Hotel in Danang, Vietnam.

Mr. Vu Si Tuan, Deputy Administrator of VASI, delivered an opening message and stressed the significance of the Gulf of Thailand Cooperation in oil spill preparedness and response and the importance of setting up a cooperation plan for three participating countries in the next five years. The meeting enabled countries to review initiatives and major achievements, update information, share experiences and learn good practices in the implementation of the Gulf of Thailand Framework Programme.

The three countries agreed in principle on the development of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Gulf of Thailand (2016–2020) consisting of eight components. The countries will further review the SAP and solicit technical support from PEMSEA in finalizing the plan for adoption. The SAP aims to further strengthen the implementation of the GOT Framework Programme in the next five years.



EAST ASIAN SEAS

Youth Forum

Charting the Future We Want: Engaging Young Champions for the Ocean Beyond 2015

"If you use a plastic fork or plate for just five minutes, is the long term effect really worth it, especially for our waters – our oceans?" Mr. Douglas Woodring, founder of Ocean Recovery Alliance, opened day 2 of the Youth Forum with this provocative question to the youth in his keynote presentation. He challenged the youth to think of the value of their good efforts and its impact on the oceans. He shared three projects that youth and communities can participate in: (1) Global Alert Application (use of mobile device to plot trash sites); (2) Recycling Roo (a puppet show that focuses on behavior change through "eco-repetition"); and (3) Plastic Catch Innovation (a program for recycling plastics for better use).

The YF delegates learned about green entrepreneurship through the presentation of Mr. Tan Zhong Yi from Green

Prints Singapore. The presentation introduced the youth to his work with Avelife, an environmental NGO based in Singapore and recognized under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, including a Community Recycling project that they are promoting with their government and communities.

Capping the day was a showcase of youth delegates' contributions to sustainable development through their involvement in various environment-related activities. Creatively, the presentations were given in the form of posters, video and a singing performance. Mr. Van Duc Nam of Marine Natural Resources Environment Survey Center also joined the forum to present some of Vietnam's good practices.

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